Mad about Marrakech

Go ahead and rock the casbah in this ancient Moroccan hub PAGE 18

Gone bad — and that's good

Emmy Rossum ditches her nice-girl act in the movie Beautiful Creatures PAGE 15

LOVE AT FIRST CLICK

THANKS TO THE GROWING ACCEPTANCE OF E-DATING, MORE PEOPLE ARE SEEKING — FINDING — TRUE LOVE ONLINE PAGES 10 & 11

VANCOUVER metro®

Wednesday, February 13, 2013

News worth sharing.

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Wrestlers grapple with IOC ouster

Carol Huynh of Hazelton celebrates her gold-medal victory over Japan's Chiharu Icho in the women's freestyle 48-kg wrestling final at the 2008 Beijing Summer Olympics. Huynh was one of several wrestlers who reacted with dismay upon learning the International Olympic Committee had denied their sport an automatic berth in the 2020 Summer Games. PAUL CHIASSON/THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

Olympics. Athletes will have to push for inclusion in 2020 Games after committee drops sport from 'core' group

PHYLICIA TORREVILLAS
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Local wrestlers and Olympians reacted with shock Tuesday as the sport they've devoted their lives to was dropped as a lock for the 2020 Summer Olympics, but they say Canada's wrestling community won't yield without a fight.

"I had to check the calendar and make sure it wasn't April 1st," said Justin Abdou, an assistant coach with SFU's wrestling team and a former Olympian.

The International Olympic Committee made a surprise decision via secret ballot during a Tuesday meeting in Lausanne, Switzerland, to cut wrestling from its list of 25 "core sports."

"Can't believe IOC is cutting wrestling! Huge blow to our sport all over the world," Olympic gold medallist and Hazelton native Carol Huynh wrote on Twitter.

Surrey's Daniel Igali, who won Canada's first-ever wrestling gold, said he doesn't understand why the IOC would axe the sport from the 2020 lineup.

"Wrestling is the oldest sport known to man," he said in a statement. "Wrestling has been featured in every Olympic Games since the modern Olympics in 1896. Every nation and tribe all over the world has some variant of wrestling."

Wrestling now joins seven other sports, including karate, baseball, wakeboarding and wushu, that will have to fight for their inclusion in the 2020 Games.

If it is dropped, Abdou — who won a gold medal at the 1994 Commonwealth Games and participated in the 2000 Olympic Games — worries about Simon Fraser University's wrestling program, which produced Igali and Huynh.

"We'll obviously continue to try to build, but all the young athletes look at the Olympic platform.... Without that it'll be interesting to see how many young athletes we can attract to our sport," he said.

Abdou is hopeful that the sport, which he said builds character and work ethic, can find its way back to the program.

"Wrestlers are fighters by nature, so I don't see that this is going to go down without a fight," he said. "Wrestling enthusiasts are going to rally around this and put some pressure on the powers that be to try and change this decision."

MORE COVERAGE, PAGE 23

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Hexamer. Sentencing for child sex predator delayed again

The sentencing of a former political campaigner who pleaded guilty to a string of sexual assaults against young girls Tuesday has been delayed again as both sides have still not agreed on facts.

Ibata Hexamer pleaded guilty last August to four sex-assault and two confinement charges in connection with attacks on six young girls between the ages of six to 14.

The 44-year-old former COPE campaigner has been in custody since December 2010 and has changed his lawyers four times

The court heard that Crown and defence were still nowhere near agreeing on a joint statement of facts.

Hexamer will make his next court appearance in New Westminster court on Feb. 19, when both sides are expected to have the agreed statement of facts to move ahead with a requested psychiatric assessment. Lawyers also a new date for a sentencing hearing.

Defence lawyer Donna Turko has said she wants to avoid calling witnesses.

Crown lawyer Elliot Poll wants a 30-day psych assessment that will help determine whether Hexamer can be declared a dangerous or long-term offender.

PHYLICIA TORREVILLAS/METRO

Evaluation

30

Crown lawyer Elliot Poll wants a 30-day psychiatric assessment that will help determine whether Hexamer can be declared a dangerous or long-term offender.

Coun. Adriane Carr speaks outside Vancouver city hall on Tuesday. EMILY JACKSON/METRO

Politics or bullying? Park fight hits council

Saga escalates.

Coun. Carr says she has been intimidated and bullied, but 'will not succumb' as fight over impact of park-board shakeup intensifies

EMILY JACKSON
emily.jackson@metronews.ca

City politicians fought over who bullied whom as the fuss over the park board saga spilled into city council Tuesday, with minority party councillors accusing the Vision party of its park board agenda pushing through without listening to the public.

Green Party Coun. Adriane Carr kicked off the dispute at a morning news conference where she accused city manager Penny Ballem of "abuse of public office" after obtaining a legal opinion that Ballem broke the Vancouver Charter when she quashed Carr's motion to research potential financial impacts of a park-board shakeup.

Carr wanted to see how much it could cost the city if the park board centralizes revenue — an idea passed in principle, but subject to five months of further negotiations with 20 community-centre associations that aren't keen on that financial model.

In emails provided by Carr, Ballem said it was risky to discuss publicly as negotiations are ongoing and that Carr should "think carefully before sharing anything like this in the media again."

That was "intimidation," Carr said. "To say it cannot be discussed is a bullying tactic and I will not succumb to that."

But when Carr brought up the motion in council, Mayor Gregor Robertson denied it since it's out of the city's jurisdiction. The park board is negotiating with the community centres and any city discussions could compromise talks, he said.

The city manager has disallowed motions due to jurisdiction before, he said, adding he took issue with Carr's "direct and brazen" comments to staff.

"You have no right to attack city staff," Robertson said, before suggesting Carr's behaviour broke the city's code of conduct.

Coun. Geoff Meggs, too, brought up bullying and stated he would ask the mayor to investigate Carr's alleged breach of the code, which states: "Council members must not make public statements attacking or reflecting negatively on City of Vancouver staff or invoke staff matters for political purposes."

Carr apologized to Ballem, but refused to say sorry to council.

Ballem did not comment, but in a statement said it is "not appropriate to discuss conversations with councillors about the management of council business."

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Mental health. Victim of lethal punch remembered as a kind peacemaker

Michael Charles Gregory, 59, was killed in a fight outside the Kettle Friendship Society on Commercial Drive on Saturday.
COURTESY OF KETTLE FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY

Staff at the mental-health-services centre where a 59-year-old longtime volunteer died Saturday after suffering a punch to the head say Michael Charles Gregory was a "sweet man" who was the first to lend a hand wherever needed.

Gregory tried to back away from an agitated assailant outside the Kettle Friendship Society at Commercial Drive and Venables Street Saturday morning but was knocked out cold. Staff rushed out and called an ambulance, but he was pronounced dead in hospital.

A 27-year-old Vancouver man is in custody, but as of Tuesday he had not been charged. Police were still trying to determine whether the two knew each other, but the society's executive director, Nancy Keough, said Gregory wasn't the sort to start trouble.

"Michael wasn't a fighter," she told Metro Tuesday, noting he had been a member and volunteer at the centre for at least a decade.

"He didn't have a fight here in all the years he's been coming. He's always been more of a peacekeeper than anything else."

Keough said she has had to bring in grief counsellors to help the society's members and staff deal with the loss, and a memorial is planned for Monday.

She said Gregory left behind a wife and many friends. As a "binner" — someone who digs cans out of bins for money — and member of the centre who regularly dropped in for meals, he was, according to Keough, always helping people.

"First thing in the morning he'd be here and when our cook would show up with the groceries he was the first person to carry everything in," she recalled.

"Whenever I got here he was always here, and just (gave) a pleasant greeting in the morning. He was always just very positive and just a really nice guy."

Anyone with information is asked to contact the Vancouver police homicide unit at 604-717-2500.

KATE WEBB/METRO

Lt.-Gov. Judith Guichon salutes an honour guard before delivering the throne speech at the Legislature in Victoria on Tuesday. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Prosperity fund could abolish debt: Premier

Throne speech. Natural-gas royalties have potential to accumulate in the billions, create jobs for B.C workers

Premier Christy Clark's Liberal government says the development of liquefied natural gas in northern British Columbia represents a generational opportunity that has the potential to wipe out the provincial debt and eliminate the need to pay sales taxes.

The government's throne speech delivered Tuesday — less than three months before the start of an election campaign — said LNG export possibilities represent a possible $1-trillion boost to B.C.'s gross domestic product over the next 30 years.

Clark announced in the throne speech a new B.C. Prosperity Fund that could accumulate between $100 billion and $260 billion in revenues from LNG royalties and business taxes, enough to wipe out the province's current debt of $56 billion by 2028.

"Future revenues will be designated to this fund, ensuring British Columbia families can benefit from the prosperity created by natural gas in our province," said B.C. Lt.-Gov. Judith Guichon, who read the government's intentions in its speech from the throne.

But the government also emphasized that the fund can't be used as type of slush fund.

"Your government is resolute that the Prosperity Fund cannot become a backstop or excuse for poor fiscal management of government."

The main focus of the Prosperity Fund will be to cut the provincial debt, which costs the province $2.4 billion annually in debt-servicing costs, said Guichon.

"Whether it's eliminating the provincial sales tax, or making long-term investments in areas like education or vital infrastructure that strengthen communities — these are the kinds of opportunities the B.C. Prosperity Fund can provide," she said.

Recent estimates of the impact of LNG development in B.C.'s north includes the creation of 39,000 jobs over the nine-year construction period and 75,000 new full-time jobs if the five facilities reach full production.

The Liberal government promised in its September 2011 jobs plan the development of three LNG plants in northwest B.C. by 2020. That figure has since been upgraded to five plants, but the completion dates are not as firm. Companies have yet to make their final investment decisions. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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M&M'S® SPOKES CANDIES CALL IT QUITS!

Red and Yellow shock fans with resignation letter.

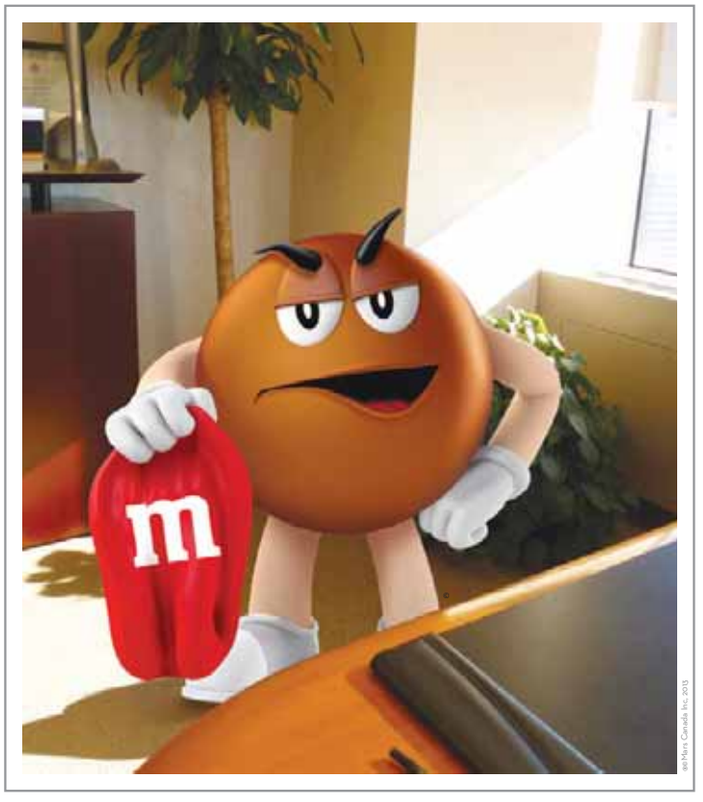
Milk chocolate lovers across the country today are mourning the loss of *M&M'S* iconic spokes candies Red and Yellow, following Tuesday's public announcement that they are hanging up their '*M*'s' and parting ways with the *M&M'S* team immediately to avoid being eaten.

"Those two have been with us for almost 60 years, so it came as a real shock" said *M&M'S* Chief Chocolate Officer Ms Brown, following the leak of Red and Yellow's resignation letter to the press on Friday. "But don't forget – the rest of us *M&M'S* spokes candies deal with the same problem everyday. Worse, I always get people smirking at me because they think I'm naked!" she continued.

The rant-filled resignation letter – which can be read in its entirety on facebook.com/mmscanada and on twitter @mmscanada – is quite abrasive and aggressive, complicating the possibility of any reconciliation. In their letter, the former spokes candies cite their daily fear of being eaten, among other things, as the main reason for resigning – going so far as to blame Canadians for their untamed love of milk chocolate.

Most *M&M'S* fans have been reacting to their departure with disappointment. "I loved Red and Yellow. You can't replace those two. It just won't be the same without them" says Craig Brandon, longtime *M&M'S* fan. Others are angry. "What the heck! This is how you thank your fans?" complains Jennifer Machey. And meanwhile, some people seemed confused. "Does this mean they're hiring? My grandson needs a summer job" said a man by the name of 'Bugsy'. As for the other *M&M'S* spokes candies – they wouldn't return our calls.

The departure of Red and Yellow as the mascots of the *M&M'S* brand has sparked speculation as to who will take over leading the corporate image. When asked if the company plans to promote from within or hire outside to fill the role of Red and Yellow, a company PR agent responded,



"I loved Red and Yellow. You can't replace those two. It just won't be the same without them."

Says Craig Brandon, longtime M&M's fan.

"You have to understand the position we're in now. Red and Yellow broke the mold. It's going to be very hard to fill their shoes, and that's not candy-coating it." Reactions on twitter have linked to leaked images of potential mascots sporting colours like Maroon and Sea Foam. The PR agent would not comment on the leaked images at this time.

Red and Yellow have since been spotted roaming around without their iconic '*M*' emblazoned candy shells on.

Perhaps it hasn't yet dawned on them that they are now naked. Whatever the case may be, one thing is for certain – the former *M&M'S* mascots have achieved celebrity status over the years and will surely be missed. Keep following this breaking news story as it unfolds at facebook.com/mmscanada and @mmscanada on twitter.

Vancouver social worker seeks seat in Italian Senate

Overseas constituent. Rocco Di Trolio says he hopes to preserve and renew Italian culture hurt by government policies

LIAM BRITTEN
vancouver@metronews.ca

Former U.S. Speaker of the House Tip O'Neill famously said all politics is local.

For Vancouver, even Italian politics is local because of Rocco Di Trolio, an East Vancouver social worker and Italian immigrant running for the Italian Senate.

Italy's senate allows for six "overseas constituencies" to represent Italians abroad. Di Trolio is running for the seat for North and Central America.

He said that many ex-pat Italians and their descendents are losing their connection to Italy thanks to government policies. He has helped many Italian-Canadians in his social work, especially with citizenship and pension issues, which are often a bureaucratic nightmare.

Perhaps most troubling for Di Trolio is the Italian government cutting funding for Italian-language schools abroad. He said this means future generations are being denied their heritage.

"In the west of Canada, we are losing the second, third generation, people who do not know anything about Italy," he said. "And what they do know is the Italy of 50, 60 years ago that they've been told (about) by their parents."

The current representative for North and Central America is Basilio Giordano of Montreal. Giordano has held the seat since 2008 and is a member of former premier Silvio Berlusconi's People for Freedom party.

"He's just sitting down to warm up the chair," Di Trolio said. "(The government has) done so much damage to Italy's image around the world. We need to change that.... I want to bring my Canadian spirit into the Italian parliament."

Cultural alienation

"In the west of Canada, we are losing the second, third generation, people who do not know anything about Italy."

Rocco Di Trolio, an East Vancouver social worker and Italian immigrant running for the Italian Senate

Rocco Di Trolio at his East Hastings office on Tuesday. LIAM BRITTEN/FOR METRO

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New report. Vancouver making some progress on homelessness, housing

Fewer people are living on Vancouver's streets, but there's still a long way to go before the city is considered affordable.

The city is well on its way to reaching its 2014 affordable-housing and homelessness targets and has already surpassed its goal for secured market rentals, according to the first report card on housing and homelessness presented to council Tuesday.

Councillors congratulated themselves and staff for the progress, though city manager Penny Ballem acknowledged Vancouver was named the second-least affordable city in the world in a recent Demographia study.

"We do know we continue to have affordability challenges in the city," Ballem said, pointing to rental-vacancy rates of 1.1 per cent (a healthy markets sits between three and four per cent).

Yet there has been a "remarkable turnaround" in building secured market rentals, Ballem said, with 1,713 units currently approved, under construction or complete. The goal was to build just 1,500 new units to add to the depleting rental stock, most of which was built in the 1960s.

New units rent for about 50 per cent higher than old apartments, but staff expects them to replace existing staff as they age. The average single person can afford about $975 per month in rent.

Street homelessness has decreased to 306 people in 2012, down by 62 per cent since 2008, according to the report. Overall levels of homelessness, including those that live in shelters, rose slightly in 2012 but remained steady at around 1,600 people.

The city plans to spend about $60 million on its affordable-housing and homelessness policy by 2014.

EMILY JACKSON/METRO

Street homeless

306

The number of people still living on the street in 2012, according to the report.

New units

1,713

The number of secured market rental units currently approved, under construction or complete, according to city manager Penny Ballem.

Merritt commander

Former RCMP staff sergeant accused of stealing drugs appears in court

The former commander of the RCMP detachment in Merritt appeared in provincial court in Kelowna on Tuesday, charged with the theft of drugs from a police evidence locker.

Former Staff Sgt. Stuart Seib was suspended as head of the Merritt detachment in January 2012, when charges of theft under $5,000 and breach of trust were laid.

At the time, investigators said cocaine had been taken from a police evidence locker.

Seib, an 18-year veteran of the force, was transferred to Merritt in November 2011 after being stationed in Clearwater for seven years.

He resigned from the RCMP last year and won't face internal discipline.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Sen. Patrick Brazeau given forced leave

Sen. Patrick Brazeau leaves a vote in which he was forced to take a leave of absence by the Senate chamber. ADRIAN WYLD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Senators have voted to force Sen. Patrick Brazeau, who is facing criminal charges, to take a leave of absence.

The Conservative motion passed Tuesday "to protect the dignity and reputation of the Senate and the public trust and confidence in Parliament."

Brazeau, 38, made a surprise appearance just prior to the vote, which also gave a Senate committee the power to cut off access to his expense account.

Brazeau has been charged with assault and sexual assault.

If convicted, he could either be suspended or expelled by the Senate or he could resign.

Brazeau was charged on the day a Senate committee announced a review of his housing expenses. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Anti-Senate

32%

A Canadian Press/Harris Decima poll says 32 per cent feel the Senate should be abolished.

The cabin in Big Bear, Calif., where ex-Los Angeles police officer Christopher Dorner was believed to have barricaded himself. KABC-TV/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ex-cop thought to have died in burning cabin

California. Deputy killed in latest shootout with man thought to be Christopher Dorner

The extraordinary manhunt for the former Los Angeles police officer suspected of three murders converged Tuesday on a mountain cabin where authorities believe he barricaded himself inside, engaged in a shootout that killed a deputy and then never emerged as the home went up in flames.

A single gunshot was heard from within. There were conflicting reports on whether a charred body was found inside, with CNN reporting that Los Angeles police denied a body was found, saying the cabin was too hot to enter.

TV helicopters showed the fire burning freely with no apparent effort to extinguish it. Smoke rose into the sky above the snow-covered woods near Big Bear Lake, a resort town about 128 kilometres east of Los Angeles.

If the man inside proves to be Christopher Dorner, the search for the most wanted man in America will have ended the way he expected — death, with police in pursuit.

Thousands had been on the hunt for the former Navy reservist since police said he launched a campaign to exact revenge against the Los Angeles police for his firing.

After the man holed up in the cabin, there was a second gun battle with San Bernardino County deputies. One deputy was killed and another injured.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE/WITH FILES FROM THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Got a zombie plan? Quebec prepares to beat back the endless ranks of the dead

If the unbreathing hordes do rise one day to take their long-awaited revenge against the living, Quebec's public security department plans to be ready.

Participants at an annual symposium on civil security next week will be discussing, among other topics, how they would handle a zombie attack.

A department spokesman says the exercise has a serious purpose: the drill is meant to simulate a real-life catastrophe.

"We're talking about a training concept," says Denis Landry, director of disaster recovery.

The idea: if you're ready to fend off the shambling legions, you're ready for anything.

"Just about every U.S. state has adopted this type of exercise," Landry said.

British Columbia conducted a similar exercise last May, hoping to generate awareness of social media tools that could help in real emergencies.

But don't expect any fake blood at the event in Laval, near Montreal. Landry says there won't be a dramatization.

The event will consist of several hundred first responders, civil-security experts, firemen and municipal officials.

Participants will deal with a number of issues: infections, infrastructure damage, death, housing issues, work absences and the drop in tourism.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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State of the Union.

U.S. economy at the top of Obama's agenda

U.S. President Barack Obama implored lawmakers and the American public alike to get behind his vision for the nation's future on Tuesday in his fourth State of the Union address, emphasizing the progress his administration has made on the economy but urging the country to stay the course.

"Together, we have cleared away the rubble of crisis, and can say with renewed confidence that the state of our union is stronger," he told a joint session of Congress replete with the pomp and circumstance that is characteristic of the annual State of the Union. But he acknowledged that millions of Americans still cannot find work, adding that wages and incomes have "barely budged" despite soaring corporate profits. "It is our generation's task, then, to reignite the true engine of America's economic growth - a rising, thriving middle class."

Obama's speech focused primarily on the economy and his ongoing efforts to ensure the country's economic recovery isn't a fleeting one. But he also announced he's withdrawing more than half of the remaining American troops in Afghanistan over the next year.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Obama: 'Nuclear tests do not make North Korea more secure'

Unbridled threat.
International community decries atomic testing that could lead to the development of a missile-bomb powerful enough to hit the U.S.

Defying UN warnings, North Korea conducted its third nuclear test in the remote, snowy northeast on Tuesday, taking a crucial step toward its goal of building a bomb small enough to be fitted on a missile capable of striking the United States.

North Korea said the atomic test was merely its "first response" to what it called U.S. threats, and said it will continue with unspecified "second and third measures of greater intensity" if Washington maintains its hostility.

The underground test, which set off powerful seismic waves, drew immediate condemnation from Washington, the UN and others. Even its only major ally, China, summoned the North's ambassador for a dressing-down.

President Barack Obama, who gave a State of the Union address later Tuesday, said nuclear tests "do not make North Korea more secure." Instead, North Korea has "increasingly isolated and impoverished its people through its ill-advised pursuit of weapons of mass destruction," he said in a statement.

But the Obama administration's options for a response are limited, and a U.S. military strike is highly unlikely.

In an emergency session, the UN Security Council unanimously said the test poses "a clear threat to international peace and security" and pledged further action.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Quoted

"(North Korea has) increasingly isolated and impoverished its people through its ill-advised pursuit of weapons of mass destruction."
Barack Obama

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There are hits ... and there are misses

A jacket named Fred, and other e-dating horror stories

While there are many success stories thanks to online dating, there are definitely some dates stemming from the Internet that don't turn out so well.

"This girl would barely speak to me on dates, but as soon as the date was over (sometimes even before I had made it back to my car) I would get text messages or emails about how well she thought things were going, and asking if I wanted to pursue a relationship with her."

Miguel D., 33

"I stopped talking to a guy that I was getting creepy vibes from and didn't want to pursue meeting.

After being at my parents' house over Christmas though, I found out he had been trying to add my mom to Facebook for a couple of months — but I never give out any information other than my first name."

Jenna B., 23

"After two days of texting, this 25-year-old asked me what I was doing, to which I replied: 'Not much, just got out of The Hobbit.' He replied: 'What is that?! Some weird sex position?'

And now his number is blocked."

Steph D. 26

"Last year, the day before Valentine's Day, I met 'Fred.' We met at a downtown coffee shop. Jason walked in and he looked nothing like his profile picture. Wearing jeans and a denim jacket, he took off his outer leather jacket and flopped it onto a neighbouring chair. When a passerby asked if she could use the chair, Jason grabbed his jacket and yelled 'Fred!' (what he named his jacket) 'Come back here and don't run away again!'

Jason then spanked the poor coat and threw it over his shoulder.

I was too embarrassed to even look at the girl dragging the chair away."

Amy C., 23

COMPILED BY HEATHER MCINTYRE/METRO

ALL EMOTICONS ISTOCK IMAGES

Got an e-dating-gone-wrong story of your own? Email us at readers@metronews.ca.

THEY FOUND LOVE I

Click! In the name love. Couples have been meeting online for years. The difference now is more admit it, as growing numbers sign up in search of the same success

HEATHER MCINTYRE
Metro in Edmonton

The first time was the charm for Heather Watson.

Her initial attempt at online dating through Plenty of Fish led somewhere she didn't think it would: Marriage, two kids and a third on the way.

After moving to Grande Prairie, Alta., Watson signed up for online dating. A couple of months after registering, she met Nicholas in November 2008. He became her husband in July 2010.

"At the time I was very busy managing a female-clothing store," said Watson, now 26. "That didn't invoke a lot of interaction with men, and I had heard that it was easier to meet men (online)."

According to Plenty of Fish, Watson is one of the lucky ones. The website states: "If you are in contact with 100 different singles, 50 per cent of the time your future partner is in the Top 10, and 17 per cent of the time we can pick the exact person you will end up dating."

All in all, those aren't bad odds, said personal relationship consultant Ryan Jakovljevic, of Evolve Personal Coaching and Counselling, noting that one in five couples today begin their relationship online.

The 25-year-old believes the growth in use of the partnership method has to do with a fear of rejection, and a draw towards being able to "sift through people and find somebody you think you're highly probable to like and enjoy being around without having to deal with a face-to-face awkward meeting."

Of course, those who have signed up to virtually meet others have done so for different reasons.

For 41-year-old Edmonton man Robin Taylor, who met wife Andrea, 40, nine years ago on Lavalife, it was due to where he was at in his life.

"I had come out of a long-term relationship and … I was 32, so my previous dating experience prior to that was in my 20s. The world had changed and I wanted to change with it," he said.

For 25-year-old Catherine Dowhaniuk, who signed up for Lavalife at the tender age of 16, it was in order to make new friends and meet people. She didn't expect to meet Mark, now 32. The Spruce Grove couple married in 2010.

"I think it's a great way to meet people, especially if you're busy all the time," she said. "Whether you make friendships or actually find that person that you love, it's still a great experience altogether."

While they preach the success of online dating because they are proof it can work, those who met through the Internet nearly 10 years ago have a different outlook on the process of filling out a

Mixing technology and romance is no longer seen as taboo — as our models demonstrate inset, are fuelling the popularity of e-dating. HEATHER MCINTYRE/METRO

Give thanks to these forebears

Yahoo! Rise of web-based hubs fuels possibilities for romance online

COMPILED BY LAURIE CALLSEN/METRO

- **1994:** Kiss.com is launched. The site is still active and boasts 12 million users.
- **1996:** Sixteen online dating websites are listed on Yahoo!
- **1998:** The Meg Ryan and Tom Hanks rom-com You've Got Mail helps bring online dating to the mainstream.
- **2002:** Friendster and MySpace are created, adding another realm where users can interact (and fall in love) online.

N AN ONLINE SPACE

— now that more and more online success stories, like those of Robin and Andrea Taylor and Mark and Catherine Dowhaniuk,

Quoted

"For the most part, you can try to match up with other people as best as you can, but of course it still doesn't guarantee when you meet that the chemistry will be there. But there's no harm in trying."

Ryan Jakovljevic, personal relationship consultant

questionnaire and chatting through email leading up to a first date now than they did when they were doing it.

Laura Frey met husband Jason on Lavalife in 2003. The Edmonton pair went on their first date on Valentine's Day in 2004, were married the same day five years later, and now have two children.

"We didn't even tell people how we met," said Frey, 32. "If people asked me, I would totally avoid the question because I was embarrassed — whereas now I just tell people because it's normal and everyone does it."

In fact, according to Lavalife, more than 1.7 million members exchange more than 700,000 messages every day. Plenty of Fish boasts more than seven million conversations daily.

That change in attitude, and the growing number of people signing up for the sites looking to find a match, prove there is less of a stigma about the idea in 2013 than there used to be.

But that doesn't mean it's easy.

Valerie Bielenda didn't meet her husband, Mark, whom she married in 2006, until signing up for Lavalife a second time in 2004.

"When I went back online the second time, the first guy I met, he was kind of a sleaze," said the 36-year-old Edmonton woman. "So when you meet somebody like that it's discouraging because you're thinking: 'His profile picture is nice, his pictures are nice, seems like a nice guy,' and then you meet him and all he wants is one thing.

"So it's discouraging, but … you just have to keep at it."

Criticisms of online dating are that the websites promote hooking up, social isolation, and easy options that could instigate wandering eyes.

Jakovljevic admits it doesn't always work.

"Dating is largely based on whether or not you feel that attraction, that sort of connection like maybe you have known this person for a long time even if you haven't. And we still don't know quite what on paper creates that – is it similarities? Is it differences? Is it experiences? And although we're getting closer, online dating still hasn't found a way to describe that."

But it is now a mainstream way to form relationships that will succeed and fail, perhaps on a similar level as the ones that start in the grocery store, at the coffee shop, through friends or in the bar, he added.

"I would say that more people succeed than not, put it that way."

Playing the odds

1 in 5

According to personal relationship consultant Ryan Jakovljevic, one in five couples meet online nowadays.

Exclusively online

For all our stories on online dating, including infographics, video and more, go to metronews.ca/datingfeature

HEATHER MCINTYRE/METRO

HE HAD COFFEE, SHE HAD TEA

If you're searching for your soulmate online, the Bielendas' love match may give you hope

When Valerie Bielenda went on a date to a Second Cup in downtown Edmonton back in 2004, she took something most don't on dates.

"I had a friend go and sit so that he could watch me to make sure it was safe," she said with a laugh.

That was because she was meeting Mark, whom she had initiated conversation with through online dating website Lavalife.

There was no need to worry though, as the couple chatted until the coffee shop closed, then moved on to Denny's, where they continued talking.

The pair had started chatting online about a week before they had met.

Valerie, now 36, had been on the site before, and was trying it for a second time.

"Being older, 27, 28, it's harder to meet people because everybody in your age group is already married or paired up with somebody," she said.

Mark, now 38, said it was simply tough to meet girls at bars, and nothing transpired with those met elsewhere.

The duo married on May 20, 2006, in front of 150 guests.

Many friends, mainly of Mark's, still don't know how they met.

"They don't know, so surprise!" laughed Valerie. "We just kind of never told them that we met online. I think, at the time, they would have bugged him a lot, but it is what it is. We're older now, we don't care.

"And it clearly worked out."

That — and it's more mainstream, added Mark.

"This is just another way of meeting your soulmate."

As the Bielendas, who still remember what one another was wearing, as well as what they had to drink on that first date, await adoption news, they do ponder what will be the next way people meet their partners.

"Twitter," said Valerie. "Isn't that how you meet people nowadays?"

HEATHER MCINTYRE/METRO

YAHOO IMAGE: WIKIMEDIA COMMONS/JUTTA234; YOU'VE GOT MAIL IMAGE: SCREENGRAB/YOUTUBE; ALL OTHER IMAGES SCREENGRABS

- **2004:** Facebook is created.
- **2005:** A Pew Research Centre report estimates that three million Americans had entered into long-term relationships or marriage as a result of meeting on a dating website.
- **2006:** Social-networking website Twitter is created.
- **2007:** Online Dating Magazine says more than 20 million people visit at least one online dating website a day.
- **2009:** An eHarmony survey finds that nearly five per cent of U.S. marriages are from matches made on the site.

Part 2 of 3

YESTERDAY
Is traditional dating dead?

TODAY
The rise of the e-dating jungle

TOMORROW
E-dating success: How to shine online

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Multinationals not paying their fair share: OECD

Fat cat tax. Global forum report claims lenient taxes create competitive disadvantage

The Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development says large multinationals are using legal loopholes to avoid paying their fair share of taxes and that global solutions are needed to combat the problem.

The OECD report says many rules designed to protect multinational corporations from being double-taxed go too far and sometimes allow them to pay no taxes at all.

It says such rules do not properly reflect today's economic integration across borders, the value of intellectual property or new communications technologies.

The G20 countries commissioned the OECD study, which was released Tuesday ahead of a weekend meeting of finance ministers and central bankers from 20 of the world's leading economies.

The OECD says the gaps that enable multinationals to eliminate or reduce their taxation give them an unfair competitive advantage over smaller businesses.

That hurts investment, growth and employment and can leave average citizens footing a larger chunk of the tax bill, the OECD says.

"These strategies, though technically legal, erode the tax base of many countries and threaten the stability of the international tax system," OECD Secretary General Angel Gurria said Tuesday in releasing the study.

"As governments and their citizens are struggling to make ends meet, it is critical that all taxpayers — private and corporate — pay their fair amount of taxes and trust the international tax system is transparent." THE CANADIAN PRESS

Market Minute

DOLLAR 99.73¢ (+ 0.16¢)

TSX 12,789.02 (+ 40.87)

OIL $97.51 US (+$0.48)

GOLD $1,649.60 (+$0.50)

Natural gas: $3.23 (- 6¢)
Dow Jones: 14,018.70 (+ 47.46)

Can't go to the show? Pass it on

Ticketmaster will now allow fans to transfer tickets to friends or family digitally at no extra charge. Ticket buyers must sign into their accounts at Ticketmaster.com and email the tickets to recipients, the company said Tuesday. The technology will be incorporated into its mobile app this spring ahead of the summer concert season. PAUL SAKUMA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

Economic forecast

Regional salary divide deepening

The Conference Board of Canada's latest forecast says Canadian non-union salaries are projected to rise three per cent nationally — in line with its summer estimates — but notes regional differences have become more pronounced.

Salary growth in Ontario and British Columbia is projected to be 2.5 per cent and Quebec's growth is only slightly higher at 2.7 per cent — all lower than forecast in the summer.

By contrast, Alberta's increases are now expected to come in at 3.9 per cent.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Cellphone charges

Rogers, Telus urge watchdog to scrap wireless cap

Two of the country's largest telecom companies are asking Canada's telecommunications regulator, as it considers imposing new rules for cellphone contracts, to scrap the $50 cap. A $50 spending limit on extra wireless data charges is one of several ideas on the table as the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunication Commission holds hearings on a proposed wireless code.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Discussion ban

N.Y. town sued for fracking hush

Two environmental groups filed a federal lawsuit on Tuesday against Sanford, an upstate New York town, claiming it violated residents' right to free speech by banning discussion of natural gas development using high-volume hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, at town board meetings.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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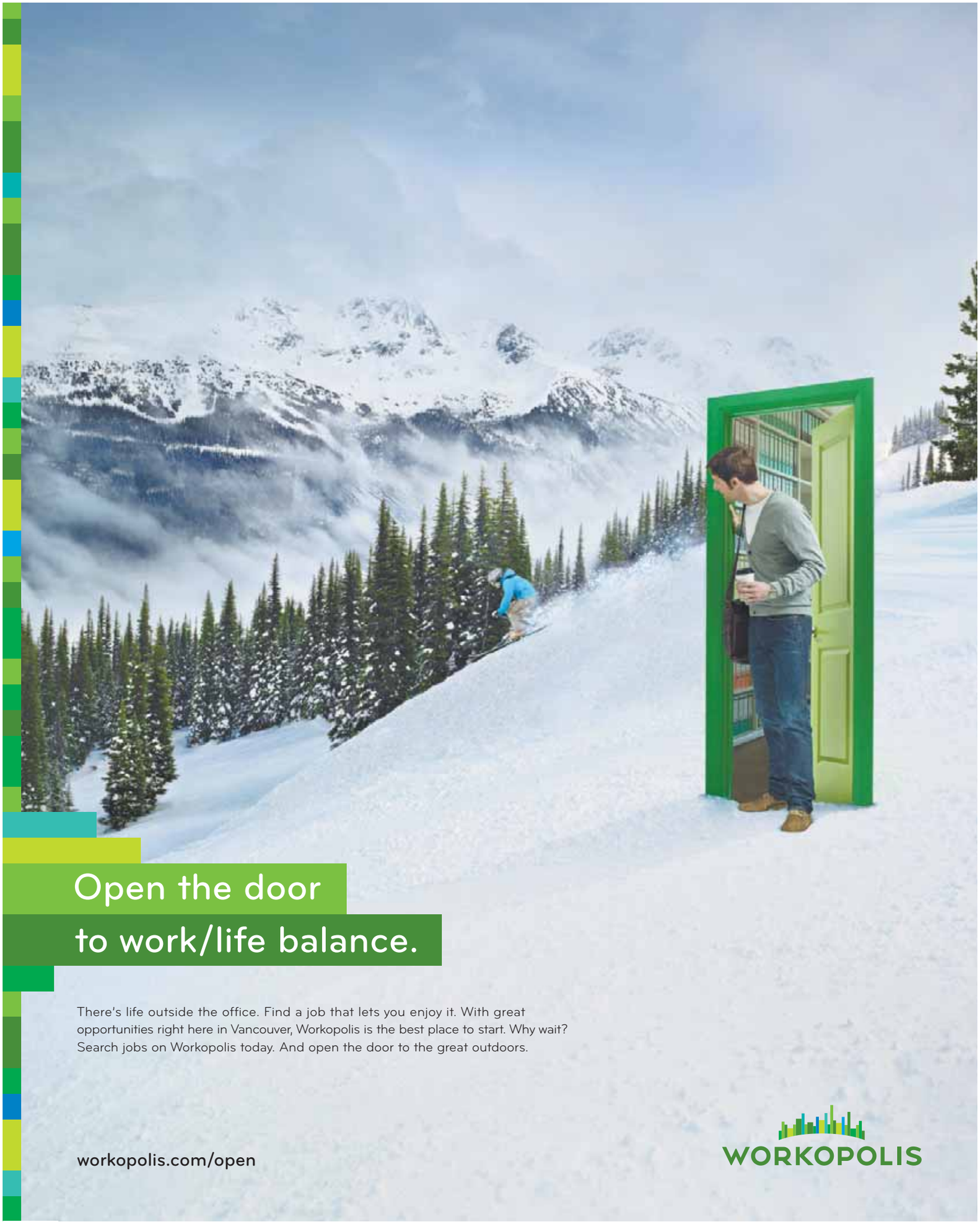
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WILL BENEDICT GET TO KEEP HIS POPEMOBILE?

JUST SAYIN'
Paul Sullivan
metronews.ca

The Pope can't retire, can he?

I was under the impression that he had to stick it out to the bitter end, like poor old John Paul II, who endured two assassination attempts, Parkinson's, a number of cancer scares and a tracheotomy, finally expiring close to his 85th birthday after 25 years on the Papal Throne.

But Benedict the XVI isn't waiting for heaven to call, announcing — in Latin, no less (which adds the kind of gravity only a dead language can deliver) — that he's gone at the end of the month.

Seeing as a pope hasn't resigned since 1415, no one is quite sure what to think or do. I mean, who wants to be the pope when there already is one, albeit retired, looking over your shoulder? It's hard enough being infallible; try it when there's a former incumbent with 20-20 hindsight (even more infallible) kicking around.

Big shoes to fill

Seeing as a pope hasn't resigned since 1415, no one is quite sure what to think or do. I mean, who wants to be the pope when there already is one, albeit retired, looking over your shoulder?

Along with how can you go from being infallible to inactive, Benedict's announcement prompts numerous questions.

For instance, will they set up a retirement wing at Castel Gandolfo, the Pope's summer retreat, complete with a putting green where the retired pontiff can play a little golfo?

Does he have to give back the Shoes of the Fisherman? Or does the new pope get to shop for new shoes?

How about the Keys to the Kingdom? Does he have to hand them in to the Swiss Guards at the end of his shift on Feb. 28?

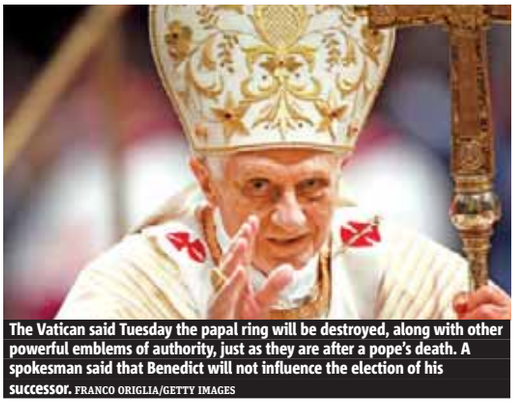
Ex-presidents get to keep their secret security details; does a retired prelate get to keep the Popemobile so he can tool around Rome in relative comfort and security?

What do we call a former pope? Your Former Holiness? Is he still holy, or is there only enough holiness for one pope at a time?

Benedict is more than a little conservative — and more than a little cranky. So the College of Cardinals is going to have to take that into account when anointing the next pope. How can they pick a big (literally) liberal like John XXIII when Benedict is still around, quick to observe that they'd never get away with that when HE was Il Papa?

Still, Benedict's timing is almost infallible. The papacy is in real need of a refresh. Along with the usual threats from sex, drugs and rock 'n' roll, Roman Catholicism has been rocked by a series of unholy scandals, some of them involving the Vatican (the, er, butler did it). A new, progressive pope could go a long way in recapturing the spiritual high ground.

Let's hope that, whoever he is, he's ready to shop for a new pair of shoes.



The Vatican said Tuesday the papal ring will be destroyed, along with other powerful emblems of authority, just as they are after a pope's death. A spokesman said that Benedict will not influence the election of his successor. FRANCO ORIGLIA/GETTY IMAGES

Unlikely bedfellows bunk up

LENNY IGNELZI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Venkman's prophecy

Dogs and cats! Living together!

It may sound like a doomed love story, but some dogs love big cats.

Cheetahs are the fastest mammals in the world, but they also are the world's biggest scaredy-cats — so much so that they don't breed easily and are in danger of extinction.

Some zoos are introducing "companion dogs" to serve as playmates and to provide the cats with an example.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dinner time

"In this relationship, the dog is dominant, but we look for dogs that want to be a buddy.... Dogs worry about their cats. They protect their cats."

Janet Rose-Hinostroza, animal training supervisor at the San Diego Zoo Safari Park

Rose-Hinostroza said that because the dogs are the dominant animal in the relationship, mealtimes are always spent apart. The dogs eat kibble, and the cheetahs eat steak. "If they ate together there would be one really fat dog and a really skinny cheetah," she said.

Endangered species

Population drops over 100 years

A century ago there were 100,000 cheetahs in the wild, said Jack Grisham, vice-president of animal collections at the St. Louis Zoo. Today there are fewer than 12,000. The species has become extinct in at least 13 countries. There are about 280 captive cheetahs in zoos across the U.S.

As efforts to save the species continue, Grisham worries there is no wild to send them home to because habitat is being swallowed up by developers. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Quick like a cheetah

3.4

A cheetah's claws don't retract, so they have footing that takes them from zero to 96 kilometres per hour in 3.4 seconds.
Cheetahs use their tails like a rotor to balance while they are running.
Their top speed is 100 kilometres an hour based on size, but they can run that fast only for 20 or 30 seconds.
Extending that to a minute or more can be lethal.

Metropolitan Panel

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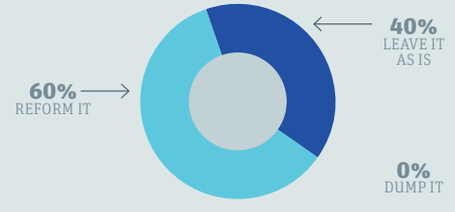
What should Canada do with the Senate?



Twitter

@StuWalters980:
It appears the BC sports hall of fame induction announcement today will be the 1994 & 1995 Kamloops Blazers memorial cup winning teams.

@keithbaldrey:
BC throne speech sketches out lofty revenue goals for LNG – trouble is, it's all years away if it happens at all. #bcpoli

@MayorGregor:
Great news - #Vancouver exceeding affordable housing targets, on track to meet homelessness goals http://bit.ly/housingrep

@Dsetoguchi10:
Tonight on TSN, first intermission of our game there will be a cool feature on my grandparents, interned in camps in BC during WWII.

@SeanBickerton:
Adrianne Carr is right: Outrageous for bureaucrat to interfere w elected official, subvert due process, rule of law http://shar.es/YYg4j

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Beautiful franchise?

Finding the next cash cow

IN FOCUS
Richard Crouse
scene@metronews.ca

Film studio executives are always on the lookout for properties that can be spun into profitable movie franchises.

And for good reason.

Following an interesting set of characters over the course of multiple movies can be a cash cow. The James Bond movies have earned more than $6 billion, while Harry, Ron and Hermione have raked in almost $8 billion since their series debut in 2001.

This weekend producers are hoping to kick off the Beautiful Creatures franchise. The supernatural romance has Twilight-ish overtones, a cast that mixes new stars like Emmy Rossum with established faces like Viola Davis and Emma Thompson, and the kind of good versus evil tale that propelled Harry Potter to the upper echelons of the box office.

But not all movies catch on with audiences in the way that the super spy and wizard have.

I Am Number Four, starring Alex Pettyfer and Glee's Dianna Agron, fizzled. Rotten Tomatoes said, "familiar plot and unconvincing performances add up to one noisy, derivative and ultimately forgettable sci-fi thriller."

With sales of more than 60 million copies, the book series Lemony Snicket's A Series of Unfortunate Events seemed to have natural franchise possibilities. With 13 books in the collection there's source material galore, but even though the Jim Carrey movie did well no sequels emerged.

Emmy Rossum stars in Beautiful Creatures. CONTRIBUTED

Good girl gone bad

Emmy Rossum.
Actress ditches 'nice girl' roles to play deadly siren in Beautiful Creatures

NED EHRBAR
Metro World News in Hollywood

Actress and singer Emmy Rossum is tired of playing the good girl, which is why she jumped at the chance to take on the role of deadly siren Ridley in the screen adaptation of the best-selling young adult novel Beautiful Creatures. Being bad, she insists, is just more fun.

The film's leads, Alden Ehrenriech and Alice Englert, said they initially passed on the film and had to be convinced to do it. How about you?
No, I was totally selfishly wanting to be in the movie because this is such a fun character. I read (the script) and then I read the first book and auditioned, got the part and was overjoyed. I love the character, she's so ballsy and fun and a different kind of villain than we're used to seeing.

With this and Shameless, you're playing some really interesting, juicy characters, different from the types of roles you started with.
Nice girl roles, mhmm. Playing the nice girl in Day After Tomorrow, Poseidon, Phantom of the Opera, those kinds of characters were coming more easily to me in terms of just getting the parts. I think that these characters for me were just more thrilling because I like to try to find the humanity and emotional understanding of characters that don't always do the right thing. I think that grey area is more fun to explore, it's more close to real life. What I like to do in characters is play against what you think that stereotype of that person would be.

You think about this girl (in Beautiful Creatures) who's a villain, who's happy to watch men get run over by trains walking toward her, you think of somebody who's quite malicious. But if you play it with a sense of fun and happiness, all of a sudden it becomes, "Oh, that's an interesting choice."

Congratulations on the season four renewal for Shameless.
Thank you. I'm excited to see where the character could go. The rest of this season has me working in different jobs until I seem to kind of find a steadier job as a telemarketer for a company called Universal Cup that makes disposable beverage cups. And I have a very cute, interesting boss, which can prove to be a problem.

You have a new album out, Sentimental Journey, with songs from the mid-20th century.
It's an ongoing struggle and negotiation with my own brain, trying to figure out what project gets what amount of time. But I really wanted to make this record, which is why I did it with my own money and then partnered with Warners to release it. ... This is all the music that I grew up with, so there were obvious ones that I wanted to put on, like Frank Sinatra's Summer Wind and Apple Blossom Time.

Exclusively online

Go online to hear Jeremy Irons — who also stars in Beautiful Creatures — have a go at giving GPS directions at metronews.ca

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The four-year-old that makes more than you

Angelina Jolie and Brad Pitt

Vivienne Jolie-Pitt, the four-year-old daughter of Angelina Jolie and Brad Pitt, is already earning some impressive cash. The toddler was reportedly paid $3,000 a week for a small role in her mom's upcoming film, Maleficent, according to contracts obtained by TMZ. The tot — whose twin brother, Knox, doesn't appear in the film — also received a per diem $60 for expenses each day she was on set. Older siblings Pax, 9, and Zahara, 8, also filmed cameos in the film, though it's unknown how much they earned.

Twitter

@msleamichele
Meetings, meetings, and mooooore meetings today!

@rosemcgowan
Just chipped my front tooth on a Charm pop. Oh, the irony. I look like I should be drinking moonshine.

@GarryShandling
I know how the Pope feels. It's exhausting.

@SteveMartinToGo
BREAKING NEWS: Donald Trump takes flattering photo.

Taylor Swift ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Don't believe the rumours, Swift isn't chasing boys

Taylor Swift knows there are people out there talking about her love life, but she's doing her best to ignore it. "I'm sure if I looked up the latest Google alerts rumour it would say I'm chasing somebody who doesn't like me as much as I like him. People love that angle on me," Swift tells Elle magazine. "They're like, 'Oh Taylor, coming on too strong again, chasing boys.' I never chase boys. They don't like it!" And while her recent dig at ex Harry Styles at the Grammys might suggest otherwise, Swift insists she's not one to vent her anger. "I don't think I've ever yelled at an ex-boyfriend," she says. "Ever. I'm not a yeller. I'm not a fit-thrower. If something is done, it's done."

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

The Word

Meet Eau de Pizza Hut

Let's cut to the chase on this item: Pizza Hut has launched a promotional perfume called Eau de Pizza Hut.

The chain is giving away 24 bottles of the stuff. To get your own, send tweets to @PizzaHut with the hashtag "LastMinuteLovers." Each package also includes a $20 Pizza Hut gift card for Big Pizza Sliders or Lovers Pizza.

"The cologne has a slightly sweet base scent of freshly rising dough, but finishes decidedly savoury with hints of Italian spice like oregano, vine-ripened tomato sauce, the crispness of fresh-sliced vegetables and all wrapped by wafts of cheesy goodness," Ashlee Firsten of Aromachology, a custom perfumery in New York said in a press release.

"It's really a quite complex combination of aromas that results in the hunger-inducing smell of a fresh Pizza Hut pizza."

It also helps if the sniffer is drunk.

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There may have been a time when Puerto Rico was a cheap getaway but those days are long gone. Puerto Rico is heavily dependent on imported goods and fuel and that's reflected in prices from a taxi ride from the airport to the mojito at your hotel. But there are, of course, some cheap options. There are also things to do that don't cost anything at all. Here are five of them.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

5 Free things to do in Puerto Rico

ALL PHOTOS EXCEPT WHERE NOTED: THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Beaches

There are plenty of beaches here — about 300 according to some estimates. In the capital, Isla Verde Beach is good for swimming and lolling on soft sand, groomed daily. Playita del Condado is a protected cove that is ideal for young kids and a surprisingly good place to snorkel for being in the middle of San Juan. Things get much better outside the capital. Crash Boat, about an hour west of San Juan, is great for swimming and snorkelling. Farther west in the west coast town of Rincon is Maria's, which has great surf.

El Yunque

About a half-hour drive from San Juan, thanks to a relatively new toll road, is an actual tropical rainforest, the only one that is part of the U.S. forest system. El Yunque National Forest is a cool oasis on a hot day. The well-maintained trails are often shrouded in misty clouds and you can cool off in a waterfall or a river pool along the relatively easy Big Tree Trail.

ANAIVETTE64/FLICKR

El Morro

There's an entrance fee to enter the Castillo San Felipe del Morro, but the best way to enjoy this U.S. National Historic Site requires no money at all. The fort that towers over San Juan Bay, known universally as just "El Morro," is a great place to stroll, especially at sunset. The massive rolling expanse of grass at the foot of the fort has spectacular views in any direction. It's a popular place to picnic and fly a kite, sold by nearby street vendors.

Old San Juan

At the foot of El Morro is the old city, the colonial heart of San Juan. In recent years, Old San Juan has been on an upswing. Its cobblestone streets are cleaner and livelier. New stores, restaurants and coffee shops have opened and many of the old homes have been restored. It's a working city, home to the governor's office and mansion — said to be the oldest in the western hemisphere — as well as other government offices and an increasing number of professional firms. It's also become an increasingly busy cruise ship port. Outlet and luxury goods shops have proliferated in response.

Music and Salsa

A good place to catch free live music several nights a week is the Plaza Mercado, a fruit and vegetable market in Santurce, a neighbourhood that is also home to what are considered some of the best restaurants in Puerto Rico. The lobby of the El San Juan in Isla Verde usually has live music and dancing on weekends. The bar of course isn't free but there's no charge to get in. The dancers can be intimidatingly good so the less-skilled may be content just to watch the scene. A number of restaurants and hotels also regularly advertise free salsa lessons.

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Falling in love with Marrakech

City of romance?
Moroccan destination's beauty and old-world charm make it the perfect place for a lover's escape

AURÉLIE RESCH
life@metronews.ca

Immerse yourself in the Moroccan way of life in Marrakech. SCOTT PRESLY/FLICKR

Marrakech — bustling hub of Moroccan tourism.

Not your idea of the perfect romantic destination?

The Riad Flam might change your perception.

Nestled in the very heart of the medina, Riad Flam boasts luxury and elegance behind its walls.

With only nine beautifully decorated bedrooms embracing a lovely patio with a fountain, this is the place to experience intimacy in a refined environment.

Dim lights, marble floor, four-poster bed and wooden furniture are your first step to your thousand-and-one nights romantic getaway.

The silence of the place will pleasantly surprise you as you return from shopping in the souks or markets. Slowly the mix of sounds you brought back from the Jemâa-El-Fna Plaza will dissolve in the faint murmur of the patio fountain. Any fatigue from your exploration of historic Marrakech will melt away while you unwind in your private hammam, or Turkish bath. Flam, the Riad's female owner, will perform the traditional hammam treatment that will leave you relaxed, rejuvenated and ready to taste local delicacies.

The choice is yours: eating on the terrace under a sky bright with stars or in the oriental-style living room. Local cuisine includes lamb tajines, vegetarian couscous, Moroccan salads, cinnamon and spices, dates and oranges.

Ready to embrace the day as the sun rises? Opt for a hot air balloon adventure before dawn and admire sunrise on the desert.

Ask Abdelai at the front desk to make arrangements with Maroc Montgolfière for this amazing three-hour experience.

If living the Arabic way of life is what you are looking for, get lost in the maze of souks and make your way back to Jemâa-El-Fna Plaza for sunset. From the rooftop of Café Glacier you will enjoy an unparalleled view of the famous Plaza and the city as the amber light colours the red facades of the houses.

As the day turns into night, the call for prayer will resonate in the entire city and the Jemâa-El-Fna Plaza will come to life with snake charmers, salesmen, acrobats and jugglers.

It won't be long until you surrender to the flurry of activity.

Back to your Riad nest, gazing at the stars, you will engrave the moment in your memory forever, happy you chose enchanting Morocco for your Valentine's Day.

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It's the perfect time for date night, wouldn't you agree?

Perfect with a glass of wine and a wedge of your favourite cheese, these crackers containing Medjool dates are a great savoury treat with a hint of sweetness.

Medjool dates, which have been called the "king of dates," are semi-soft and exceptionally large. They're carried year-round by major and mid-sized grocery chains across Canada.

1. Heat oven to 160 C (325 F). Line a baking sheet with parchment paper.

2. In a food processor, pulse pistachios until finely chopped. Add 125 ml (1/2 cup) of the flour and dates. Pulse until mixture resembles fine bread crumbs. Add olives and pulse until mixed. Add remaining flour, orange zest, salt, baking powder and pepper. Pulse until well mixed.

3. In a small bowl, whisk egg and set aside 15 ml (1 tbsp) of the beaten egg for glazing. Add remaining egg and olive oil to food processor. Pulse until mixture comes together.

4. Turn dough out onto lightly floured board and knead gently. Flatten into a disc and wrap in plastic wrap. Refrigerate until firm, 1 hour.

Ingredients

- 50 ml (1/4 cup) pistachios, shelled
- 250 ml (1 cup) all-purpose flour, divided
- 125 ml (1/2 cup) Medjool dates, pitted and chopped (5 to 6 dates)
- 50 ml (1/4 cup) kalamata olives, pitted and chopped
- 5 ml (1 tsp) orange zest
- 1 ml (1/4 tsp) salt
- 0.5 ml (1/8 tsp) baking powder
- 0.5 ml (1/8 tsp) black pepper
- 1 egg
- 30 ml (2 tbsp) olive oil

Medjool Date, Nut and Olive Crackers

This recipe makes about 12 crackers. THE CANADIAN PRESS H/O

5. Using lightly floured rolling pin, roll dough 5 mm (1/4 inch) thick. Cut into 6-cm (2 1/2-inch) rounds. Place on a prepared baking sheet. Brush tops with remaining beaten egg. Bake in centre of oven until golden brown, 22 mins.

6. Let cool on a rack. Store in an airtight container up to 3 days. **THE CANADIAN PRESS/ NATURAL DELIGHTS MEDJOOL DATES**

Drink of the Week

Amore Martini

There's just something seductive about a martini. Show your guests and sweethearts alike that you love them with this Amore Martini.

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- Dash of fresh lemon juice

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Shake and serve in a cocktail glass.

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Career centres are there to help students find their way into the workforce, the next stage in their lives. ISTOCK

While many Aboriginal people reside in major cities today, there are still a significant number of First Nations, Métis and Inuit students who come from small, remote communities to attend college or university.

If they hope to successfully adjust to life in a larger city and maybe one day start their career there, it's important for these students — many of whom may be the first in their family to pursue post-secondary education — to build their networks starting from day one.

Take advantage of Aboriginal service and career centres

A number of universities have specialized career centres and services for their Aboriginal students. At the University of Regina's Aboriginal Career Centre, for instance, students can benefit from educational and career planning services, partnerships with local employers and the Aboriginal community and internship programs.

The University of Alberta's Aboriginal Student Services Centre (ASSC) is another example. Students have access to a range of programs and services at the ASSC: connections to Aboriginal traditions and culture, elder services, guidance, emotional support, funding for tutoring and workshops and volunteer opportunities.

"It comes down to the networking and connections," says Shana Dion, director at the ASSC. "A lot of the connections they have might be from back home and not from the urban setting. If we don't choose to go back home, what are other options?"

Know you're an asset

Many employers want new hires who come with relevant experience. While this is true, Dion says there are those who are willing to work with students who might not have that experience.

She advises Aboriginal students who are currently making the school-to-work transition to believe in themselves and know that they are of value to organizations.

"Somebody might not come with connections to so many communities, understanding protocols, knowing who elders are, knowing who community members are in certain areas where an industry might need to connect," Dion explains. "So if a student is from a certain area and chooses to work with a certain industry leader, maybe that industry leader works with that community. You have a connection already with that community. That's an asset. You know what I mean? They don't have to build that."

It's important to acknowledge that each person comes with unique past experiences, journeys, knowledge, skills and relationships which can be a benefit to any organization, says Dion.

Meeting mentors

"A lot of the connections they have might be from back home and not from the urban setting. If we don't choose to go back home, what are other options?"

Shana Dion
Director at the University of Alberta's Aboriginal Student Services Centre

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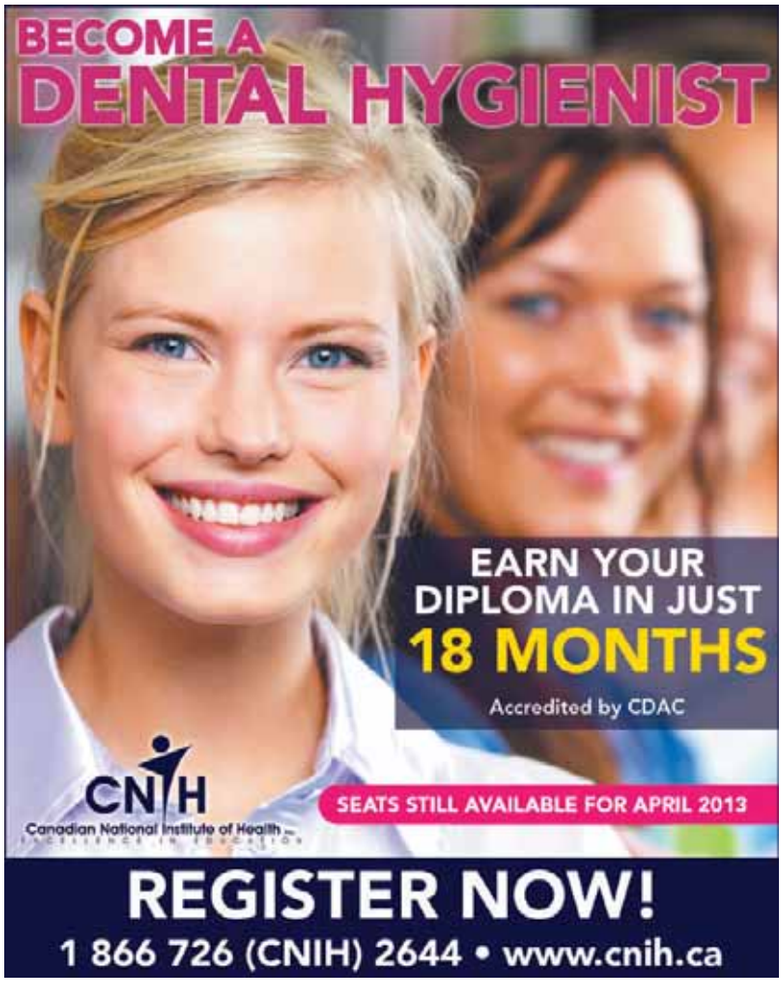

Teach the tough and the true

Prioritizing the past. Why Indigenous studies classes are more important today than ever before

DANIELLE LORENZ
TalentEgg.ca

With the critical thinking and writing skills that Indigenous studies programs foster, Mallory Whiteduck says that graduates should be able to expect jobs in areas similar to others with bachelor of arts degrees. ISTOCK

With all that is being publicized in the media in respect to Idle No More, it's essential to understand the importance of enrolling in Indigenous studies classes.

I asked Mallory Whiteduck — whom I met while I was studying at Carleton University — for her perspective.

Originally from Kitigan Zibi Anishinabeg, Whiteduck completed her bachelor's degree in communications at the University of Ottawa and then went on to do her master's degree in Canadian studies at Carleton University. For two years she worked as a researcher at the Native Women's Association of Canada, in their Sisters in Spirit initiative. Whiteduck has been working with Carleton University's Centre for Aboriginal Culture and Education (CACE) since 2010.

Harsh reality

We can't eliminate Canada's history of colonization from our identity simply because it's not a pretty story.

Mallory Whiteduck

What is your role as an Aboriginal cultural liaison officer?

In the very broadest sense, my role here is to help to "Indigenize" the university. Our office has helped to create systemic change at the university, for example by contributing to Carleton's Aboriginal Coordinated Strategy, which was approved by the University Senate.

Another big part of my job is working with youth on the ground. I travel across Ontario and parts of Quebec, visiting Aboriginal youth on and off-territory, and in communities and urban areas, to promote post-secondary education and opportunities for Aboriginal students at Carleton.

What kinds of skills can be gained in Aboriginal studies programs that cannot be gained in other academic disciplines?

Learning how to think critically is an important skill that is taught in Indigenous studies programs.

Canada has a strong national pride, and it is often those stories that celebrate Canada's accomplishments that are told to students in elementary and secondary schools.

When Aboriginal history is added to the Canadian narrative — which sometimes only happens for students when they reach college or university, or never — it becomes a richer story and it becomes a story that is complicated, negative and not necessarily one that Canada should be proud of as a nation.

We can't eliminate Canada's history of colonization from our identity simply because it's not a pretty story. To do that would be denying Canadian children the opportunity to truly understand their Anishinaabe, Inuit, Onkwehonwe, Métis and other Indigenous friends and neighbours. Being able to think critically about Canada and its relationship with Aboriginal peoples will provide Indigenous studies graduates with a deeper understanding of where they are from.

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SPORTS 4

Vancouver Canucks defenceman Dan Hamhuis, bottom, fights for control of the puck with Minnesota Wild right-winger Charlie Coyle at Rogers Arena on Tuesday. The Canucks defeated the Wild 2-1. JONATHAN HAYWARD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canucks hang on to defeat Wild

NHL. Goalie battle ends favourably for Luongo as Van extends win streak to six

CAM TUCKER
cam.tucker@metronews.ca

Henrik Sedin will have to wait for another day.

The Vancouver Canucks captain came into Tuesday's game against the Minnesota Wild one point away from tying his good friend, fellow countryman and former teammate Markus Naslund, for the all-time franchise lead in points at 756.

The Canucks still came away with a 2-1 victory over the Wild, and have now won six consecutive games to improve their record to 8-2-2.

Goalie Roberto Luongo, after two games off, made the start, stopping 25 of 26 shots.

Canucks defenceman Kevin Bieksa opened the scoring, as he jumped up into the rush and snapped a quick one-time shot past Wild goalie Darcy Keumper, who was making his National Hockey League debut.

Zack Kassian set up the goal. He calmly carried the puck over the Minnesota blue-line, down the right wing, and distributed the pass to a streaking Bieksa.

Jannik Hansen provided the goal of the night, putting the hosts up by a pair of goals in the process.

His linemate, Mason Raymond, started the play with a nifty toe drag move that split to Wild defenders just inside the attacking zone blue-line. Raymond then found Keith Ballard with a cross-ice saucer pass.

The Canucks blue-liner took one look and sifted a pass right on the stick of a wide open Hansen, who went top shelf over the glove of Kuemper for this third goal of the season.

Devin Setoguchi scored the lone goal of the night for Minnesota.

The 2-1 win snapped Luongo's shutout streak against the Wild on home ice at 228 minutes and 26 seconds.

On Tuesday

Canucks	Wild
2	1

Paying homage

B.C. Hockey Hall of Fame announces six inductees

The British Columbia Hockey Hall of Fame on Tuesday announced its six inductees for 2013; among the list is Nancy Wilson, the first woman to be inducted.

Wilson captained the University of Western Ontario and played at the senior level in Vancouver before moving on to coaching. Her levels in coaching extend from university to international competition with the Canadian women's national team at the Four Nations Cup and World Championships.

Paul Kariya, Mark Recchi, Marc Crawford, Colin Patterson and the 1993-94 and 1994-95 Kamloops Blazers are also among the inductees.

Kariya hails from North Vancouver. He played two seasons with the Penticton Panthers of the BCJHL before two years at the University of Maine and a 15-year National Hockey League career. He also won Olympic gold in 2002.

Recchi, from Kamloops, played 1,652 regular-season games in the NHL, racking up 1,533 points. He won three Stanley Cups – the last coming in 2011 against the Vancouver Canucks.

Crawford won a Stanley Cup as coach of the Colorado Avalanche in 1996 and was coach of the Canucks for more than six seasons.

Patterson's playing and coaching experience is extensive, from the university level to professional leagues in Europe, junior hockey in North America and internationally.

The Blazers, under the guidance of coach Don Hay and general manager Bob Brown, won back-to-back Memorial Cups in 1994 and 1995.

The induction ceremony takes place July 26 at the South Okanagan Events Centre in Penticton. METRO

Whitecaps' O'Brien has a new lease on life

Andy O'Brien admitted his soccer career was once, not very long ago, at a crossroads. Not because of injury but because of depression.

Playing for Leeds United in the English Championship, O'Brien refused to play in a November 2011 match and was kept out of the lineup for the next few months. He was originally not welcomed back to the team, however an internal inquiry done by the club overturned that.

O'Brien, now a defender with the Vancouver Whitecaps, went to the Professional Footballers' Association for help and was treated for depression at the Sporting Chance clinic.

At first, O'Brien was "determined there was nothing wrong," even though his family showed concern.

"A bit stubborn but I'm glad I went to see the PFA," he said Tuesday.

Depression

10%

Approximately 2.5 million Canadian adults or over 10 per cent of the population 18 and older will have a depressive disorder.

"I think sometimes it's difficult for people closest to you because they're obviously hurting as well. I keep repeating myself but I'm grateful for the PFA."

Tuesday was Bell Let's Talk Day, aimed at raising awareness for mental health issues and initiatives across Canada.

According to the Canadian Mental Health Association, one in five Canadians will suffer a mental disorder in their lives, and, "approximately 2.5 million Canadian adults or over 10 (per cent) of the population 18 and older will have a depressive disorder."

O'Brien, respectfully, will not go into his darkest moments of depression, though he acknowledges those moments existed.

"That's going to remain personal," he said.

O'Brien officially joined the Whitecaps on Aug. 1 of last year. It may have been the best career move he could've made.

"I'm not going to lie to you, had I not come here, the potential was for me to retire at the end of what would be the (United Kingdom) current season," said O'Brien.

"Coming here, I feel I've had a new lease of life."

CAM TUCKER/METRO

Andy O'Brien of the Vancouver Whitecaps GETTY IMAGES FILE

Wrestlers have Olympic fight on their hands

Chopping block. Sport has been part of Games since 700 BC and Canada's good at it

JESSICA SMITH
Metro in Toronto

The international wrestling community is gearing up for a fight to keep the sport in the Olympics — launching a lobbying campaign no one knew was needed until Tuesday's surprise decision by the International Olympic Committee executive board.

"We didn't even know we were on the chopping block," said Wrestling Canada president Don Ryan.

Canada has performed well in wrestling, especially since women's wrestling became an Olympic sport in 2004. Daniel Igali won gold in 2000, as did Carol Huynh in 2008, who also won bronze in 2012. Tonya Verbeek won silver in 2004 and 2012 and bronze in 2008.

The IOC executive board announced it is recommending freestyle and Greco-Roman wrestling be dropped from the Olympic program, a decision that is set to be ratified by the IOC in May.

"There was nothing that indicated that we were in trouble," Ryan said. "But we're wrestling. We're combative people. We're going to pull our sleeves up and get to work on saving our sport for 2020."

The sport's governing body, the International Federation of Associated Wrestling Styles (FILA), was already scheduled to hold its bi-annual meeting in Phuket, Thailand, this weekend. It will now revise the schedule to focus on the Olympics problem, Ryan said.

After the 2000 Olympics, FILA changed some rules in an effort to make the sport more exciting. Rounds were shortened and the scoring was simplified. At the upcoming meeting, FILA was to discuss encouraging "more high-action moves" and making scoring easier to understand, said Ryan. "We're always trying to improve."

Modern pentathlon and taekwondo were seen as more likely to be cut from the Olympics than wrestling. Asked about the lobbying efforts, sponsorships, power and money involved in those sports, Ryan said he hopes the IOC's decisions aren't made on those bases.

While the IOC has not given a concrete reason for the decision, it claims it's based on a report that analyzes numerous factors, including television ratings, ticket sales, anti-doping policy and global participation and popularity.

"This is a process of renewing and renovating the program for the Olympics," IOC spokesman Mark Adams said.

WITH FILES FROM THE CANADIAN PRESS

Wrestling's history

- **708 BC:** Wrestling was the decisive and last discipline held in the Pentathlon.
- **1896:** The Greco-Roman event (no weight classes) was the only wrestling event at the inaugural modern Olympics in Athens.
- **2004:** Women were finally allowed to compete in freestyle wrestling (four weight classes) at the Olympics.
- **2008:** B.C. native Carol Huynh made history with Canada's first gold medal in women's wrestling at the Beijing Olympics.

PHYLICIA TORREVILLAS/METRO IN VANCOUVER

Tonya Verbeek, from Grimsby, Ont., lifts India's Geeta Geeta in their 55-kg freestyle wrestling match at the 2012 Summer Olympics in August. Verbeek won silver at the Games. RYAN REMIORZ/THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

Competition

7

If the decision is ratified, wrestling will join seven other sports — baseball/softball, karate, roller sports, sport climbing, squash, wakeboarding and wushu — to lobby for inclusion in the 2020 games.

CFL

Eskimos sign slotback to contract extension

The Edmonton Eskimos signed all-star slotback Fred Stamps to a contract extension Tuesday.

The deal will keep Stamps under contract with Edmonton through the 2014 season.

Stamps finished second in CFL receiving last season with 70 catches for 1,310 yards and nine TDs.

The six-year veteran has surpassed the 1,000-yard receiving plateau four straight years and been named a league all-star each time.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

CFL

Argos acquire veteran receiver

Ricky Foley wants to return to the Toronto Argonauts, and the free-agent defensive end says he offered to take a pay cut.

His future with the Grey Cup champions remains unclear, however, with the CFL free-agent market set to open Friday at noon. Foley, running back Chad Kackert and defensive back Evan McCollough are all eligible.

GM Jim Barker, dealing with a $4.35-million salary cap, signed his first big free agent on Tuesday — former Calgary receiver Romby Bryant. In five seasons, three with the Stamps and two with Winnipeg, the 33-year-old caught 210 passes for 3,025 yards and 22 touchdowns. Last season he had 55 receptions for 678 yards and two scores.

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Findings on the new Forester

Review. Subaru's wonder wagon adds refinement plus a more satisfying right-foot workout.

MALCOLM GUNN
wheelbasemedia.com

ALL PHOTOS WHEELBASE

You would think that after 15 years and three generations of Forester that Subaru would have concocted the ideal formula for its tallest tall wagon.

Actually this car-based conveyance has contained mostly all the right ingredients ever since its 1998-model-year launch and the fourth generation model arriving this spring is dishing up more of the same.

Through clockwork-regular updating, the Forester has evolved into a steady performer that treats its passengers well and totes their belongings with ease. On good roads and bad, the standard all-wheel-drive operates virtually unnoticed. But when the need arises, which is frequently in snow-belt regions, the vehicle's mountain-goat capabilities make it a popular choice.

The 2014 Forester's bolder, brawnier styling displays more curves and angles than before. The blacked-out lower body cladding featured on all models ties in nicely with the more expressive mesh-style grille, flat-black bumper and attractively shaped side air intakes featured on up-level turbo models. (Subaru has also eliminated the turbo's obtrusive hood scoop that was part of its standard kit.)

The Forester sits on a new platform that modestly stretches the distance between the front and rear wheels. That translates into a bit more rear legroom (up-level trims add a reclining rear seat), but a taller roofline and lower load floor adds about 10 per cent more cargo volume with the split-folding rear seat folded flat.

The cabin's more formal control-panel layout is trimmed in satin nickel and optional leather. Subaru's designers also increased the distance between the front seats and the dash to create a greater sense of spaciousness.

The Forester's only significant carryover item is the 2.5-litre four-cylinder engine (installed in 2.5i models) that generates 170 horsepower and 174 pound-feet of torque. For added punch, the 2.0XT uses a turbocharged version of the 2.0-litre four-cylinder in the BRZ sports coupe. Rated at 250 horsepower and 258 pound-feet of torque, it replaces the previous 2.5-litre turbo engine option that produced 224 horsepower and 226 pound-feet. The engine, which apparently won't fit into the BRZ, does show potential, however, for a future application.

Updating the Forester's underpinnings was also on Subaru's radar. This included specific retuning the front and rear suspension for the base and turbo models and installing larger brakes for the latter. Electric power steering replaces the less-efficient hydraulic unit to help curb fuel consumption.

The Forester's admirers likely won't be disappointed with this latest iteration's crisp styling, added performance and improved fuel efficiency. For those reasons, this Forester is one notch closer to perfection.

2014 Subaru Forester

- **Type.** Four-door, all-wheel-drive compact wagon
- **Engine (hp).** 2.4-litre DOHC H4 (170); 2.0-litre DOHC H4, turbocharged (250)
- **Transmissions.** Six-speed manual; continuously variable with opt. paddle shifters
- **Base price (incl. destination).** $28,550

Fuel economy

The 2.5 is estimated at 9.5 l/100 km in the city and 7.4 on the highway with the CVT, while the 2.0XT's estimate is 10.2/8.4. These values improve on the previous-generation's base and optional power trains.

The base engine is thrifty and has enough power for most situations. The turbo option is our choice.

Transmission

The 2.5i offers a six-speed manual transmission, or a continuously variable (CVT) option. The 2.0XT only comes with the CVT, but it comes with what Subaru calls its "engine performance management system" with Intelligent, Sport and Sport Sharp settings.

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‘Second life’ rising for used batteries

Driving Force. Discarded electric car batteries may one day power homes and commercial spaces

JIL MCINTOSH
drive@metronews.ca

Electric vehicles may point the way toward the future of mobility, but they’re not without their issues. One of these is what to do with their batteries when the car is finally at the end of its life.

Several companies are working on solutions, including General Motors, which has demonstrated a “reuse unit” for power storage using the Chevrolet Volt’s lithium-ion batteries.

“This is a secondary-use application and it’s one of the ways we’re looking into extending the battery’s useful life,” says Peter Karlson, engineering specialist for General Motors of Canada.

Although the unit was demonstrated in California, it was built at GM’s research and development centre in Oshawa, Ont.

Concerns addressed

“From the onset of the Volt, people have been concerned about what will happen with all of these batteries. They won’t go to landfills and we’re delaying their recycling.”
Peter Karlson, engineering specialist, General Motors of Canada

GM built a “reuse unit” for power storage using the Chevrolet Volt’s lithium-ion batteries. HANDOUT

The future of lithium

Recycling lithium is currently far more expensive than mining it

- Numerous companies are working on solutions to bring down the price, so that batteries can be effectively recycled following secondary uses.
- Electric car batteries may one day be used in individual storage units, installed in houses to store power from on-site solar panels.

The average lifespan of any car is around 10 years, but at that point, the Volt’s battery is expected to still have about 70 per cent of its capacity intact. Rather than send the batteries for recycling with that much left in them, researchers are putting them into units that will store electricity, whether from the power grid, solar or wind power, and then make it available during power outages or expensive peak hours.

The GM prototype was demonstrated by running lights and equipment in an off-grid structure, with all of the power coming from the Volt batteries inside of it. The company says the power produced was the equivalent needed to run three to five average homes for two hours. Researchers are now working on installing the system on the electrical grid, where they will monitor “smart grid” applications where the unit can be integrated to store and supply power for homes and commercial use.

“This particular unit we’re working on is more targeted to the utility companies, allowing them to deliver power at higher quality and at lower cost to their customers,” Karlson says.

The company says it doesn’t expect electric car batteries to start being returned for at least a decade, but is working proactively to have solutions in place once they do.

Plug-In comes with extra savings

You’ve likely seen owners of hybrid vehicles filling up their gas tanks at the station. But now there’s a new version, the Toyota Prius Plug-In, which takes gas through its filler on one side, but which plugs into a household wall outlet on the other.

“Our initial goal with hybrids was to make them as easy to adopt as possible,” says John-Paul Farag, manager of advanced technology and powertrain at Toyota Canada.

“We didn’t want people to have to drive or maintain it differently.”

The conventional Prius hybrid uses a gasoline engine and electric motor for propulsion, running on one or the other, or a combination of both, depending on such factors as speed, acceleration, and ambient temperature.

It doesn’t need to be plugged in, because the battery recharges itself during braking or from the gasoline engine.

When the Prius Plug-In is plugged in, its battery recharges so it can provide up to about 25 kilometres on electricity alone, at speeds up to 100 km/h. Once that stored charge is depleted, the car reverts to normal hybrid operation.

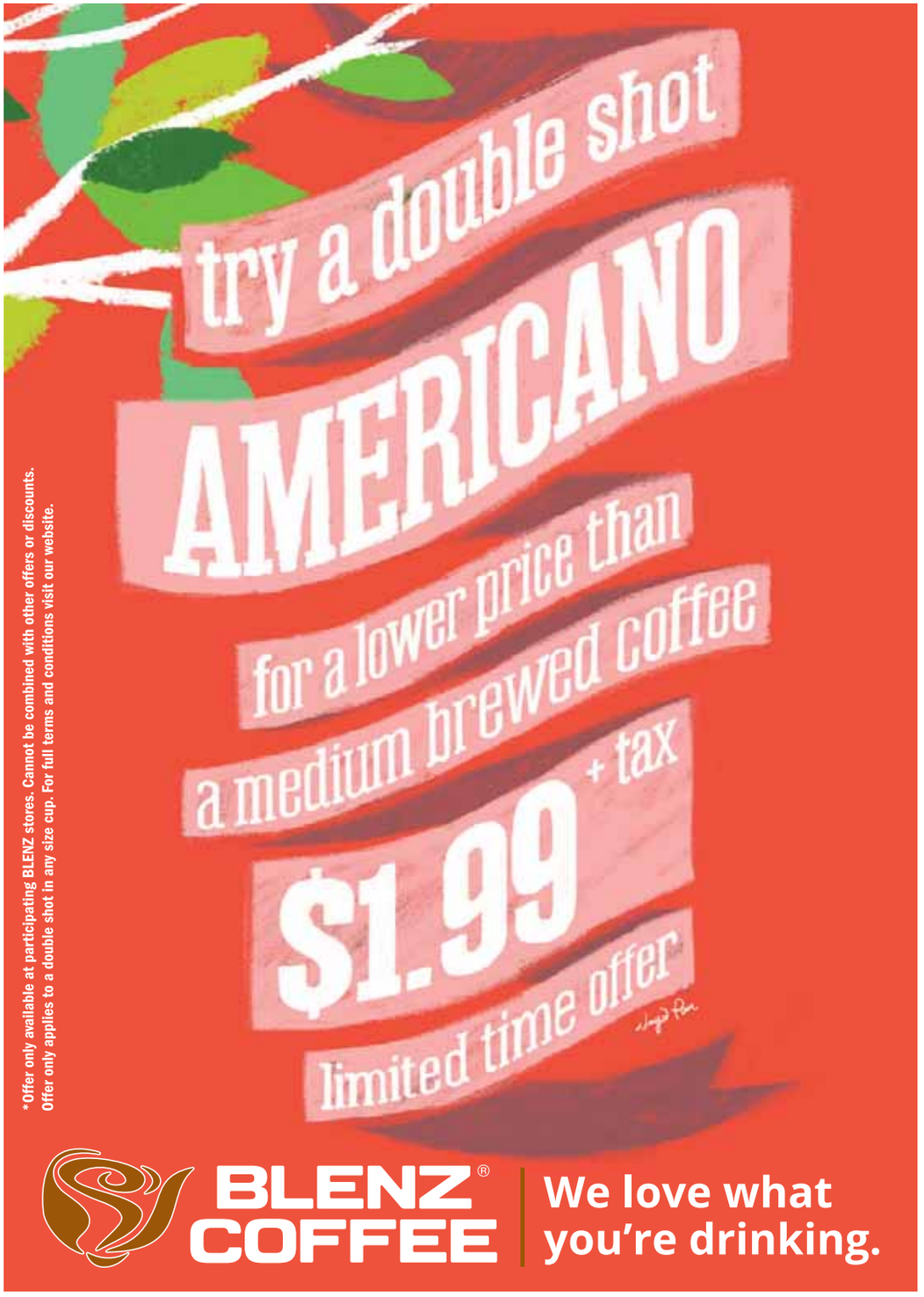
An “electric vehicle” button on the console allows the driver to determine when the car will run on the stored charge. Someone who gets on the highway right away, for example, might opt to run the car on hybrid mode, and then switch to electricity once she’s off the highway and driving at lower speeds.

“It takes three hours to recharge on a regular household outlet,” Farag says. “On average off-peak hours, it would be about a penny a kilometre for electricity, which is about one-tenth the cost on gasoline.”

JILL MCINTOSH/FOR METRO

Is it worth it?

- The Prius Plug-In does cost more than a regular Prius, and drivers will have to examine their driving habits to see if it’s worth it to them.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The electric car of Cadillacs

Toronto Auto Show. ELR to join Volt and Karma in Extended Range Electric Vehicle territory

AUTO PILOT
Mike Goetz
drive@metronews.ca

The 2014 Cadillac ELR is focusing on making the driver look good. HANDOUT

The 2014 Cadillac ELR is one of the cooler-looking brand-new production cars taking the stage at this week's auto show in Toronto.

It also makes GM a pioneer of sorts. Not like the folks on Little House on the Prairie, looking for really nice farming dirt. More like Thomas Edison, looking for new things that can be powered by electricity.

The Cadillac ELR is slated to start production late this year for an early 2014 on-sale date. That's when we'll find out if luxury buyers, already willing to pay a premium for a luxury ride and all it entails, are also willing to pay a bit extra for an electric powertrain.

Technically the ELR is not a pure electric vehicle. Like the Chevrolet Volt, it has an electric motor and an internal combustion engine, the latter used primarily for re-charging the ELR's battery so the vehicle is always "electrically" driven. You can also recharge it by plugging it in. Officially, GM calls it an Extended Range Electric Vehicle.

The only other extended range electric vehicles currently on the market would be the $42,000 Chevrolet Volt and the $100,000-plus Fisker Karma. A little too conveniently, all GM would say about ELR's projected price is that it would be more than Volt, less than Karma.

Cadillac is figuring, like Fisker and some others, that electricity is high-tech and desirable. But the styling of the ELR screams non-electric. You could very easily imagine it to be powered by something like a high-output V6.

The ELR is longer than the Cadillac ATS, but only offers the part-time rear seating area of a 2+2. The focus is clearly on the driver and making him or her feel good and look good.

While it has the same 1.4-litre "four" as Volt, and the same battery and electric motor set-up, it has slightly more power, due to new "battery discharge" software programming learned from Volt's first years on the road.

Handling should be several degrees better than Volt, due to a more advanced chassis, featuring 20-inch tires, a wide track, many aluminum pieces and a Watts Z-link rear suspension.

Among the many new and novel bits to ELR is Regen on Demand. When you need to slow down or come to a stop, you could use your brake pedal as usual, or you could engage Regen on Demand via paddle levers on the steering wheel. The experience is not unlike downshifting early on a manual transmission car. It's basic regenerative braking, as happens in all hybrid and EVs, but in Regen on Demand mode it does it with a lot more feeling, and a lot more electricity going back into the battery. Also neat is the system that allows drivers to select four driving modes: Sport — let's boogie; Tour — default setting; Mountain — gas engine actually provides some assistance to the electric motor; Hold — keeps your battery charge for when it might be more useful and efficient, like when you get to stop-and-go city traffic after a long commute.

It will be fun over the next few years, watching electric powertrains migrate to luxury segments, with more opportunity for styling and engineering advancements and experimentation. Let the pioneering games begin.

Details

Bullet Pointing the ELR:

- **EV range.** 56 km
- **EV plus gas range.** 480 km
- **Torque.** 298 lb-ft
- **Top speed.** 160 km/h
- **Looks.** Killer

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See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers.

Horoscopes

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
There is tension in the air. Anything can happen at any moment. Go where your heart leads you today and don't worry about the consequences. It's OK to take a few risks. In fact, it's good for you.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
What happens today will take you by surprise, most likely because you have been fearing the worst. Could it be you were too negative in your evaluation of the situation? Of course. But now you know better.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
Make sure you keep an eye on what partners and loved ones and work colleagues are up to today. Above all, don't let them sign you up for anything you are not 100 per cent convinced is good for you.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
Each sign is born with its own special talent and yours is your ability to sense what other people are feeling. Use that talent today to find out why someone you love feels under the weather then cheer them up.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
You can do no wrong at the moment, but that does not mean you have permission to do what you know is very wrong indeed! Yes, you can push the envelope, a little, but don't push your luck too far.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Lay down the law and make sure everyone you have dealings with knows what is expected of them. Things have been a bit sloppy of late, so get your act together and make sure those around you do likewise.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
There may be some major upheavals today but the Sun in Aquarius has you covered, so you don't have to worry too much. Other people may be a bit negative though, so watch out for harmful emotions.

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
If there is a social or career opportunity you would like to take advantage of then go for it — now, this very moment. The longer you sit there thinking about it, the more likely it is you'll miss out.

♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
You can go anywhere. You can do anything. You are the master of your own destiny in every conceivable way. You find that hard to believe? Well, start believing it because it's absolutely true. Never doubt yourself.

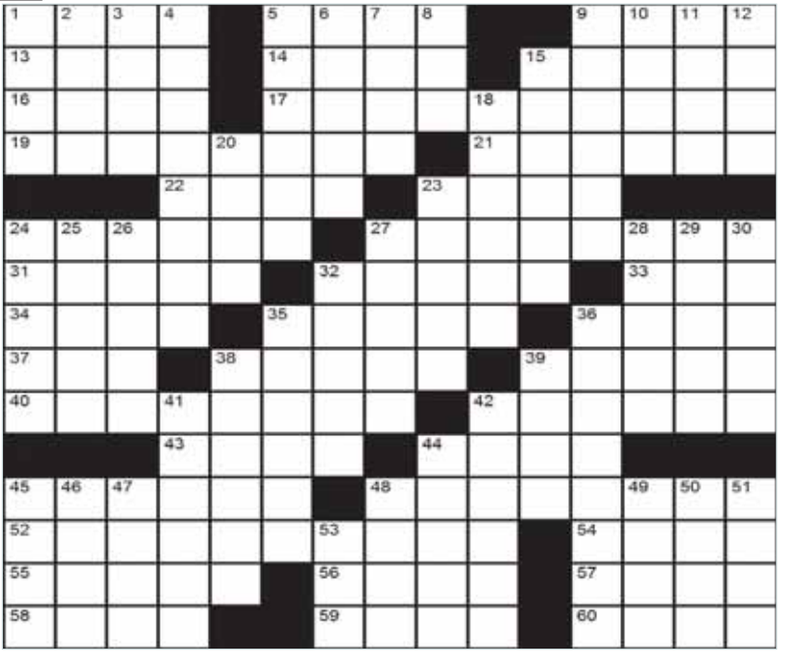
♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
You need to go on the offensive today. You need to make sure your rivals understand that you will not just stand there and take what they choose to give you. You're the one with the talent, so you do the choosing.

♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
You know instinctively when other people are lying to you, and that ability will come in handy over the next 24 hours. You don't have to let them know you are on to them though, at least not yet.

♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
Someone in authority seems to be asking a lot of you at the moment but there is a good reason for it, and an even better reason why you should play along. Maybe they are testing you for future promotion! SALLY BROMPTON

Crossword: Canada Across and Down

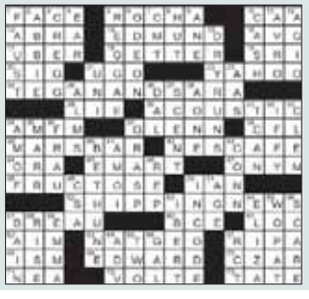
BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



Across
1. __ wash jeans
5. Slang for coffee
9. Comprehend
13. Memo
14. Adam and Eve's grandson
15. Spring flower
16. "_ __ Rock and Roll Music" by Peter, Paul and Mary
17. Canadian activist whose achievements include the Man In Motion World Tour: 2 wds.
19. Our national summer sport
21. Canadian filmmaker Atom
22. Pulitzer-winning writer James
23. Highbrow
24. Toronto concert venue, __ Hall
27. Canadian rap star, __ Offishall
31. Surface
32. "etalk" anchor Ms. Kim
33. Ginger __
34. Cooper car
35. Makes text thicker-looking
36. Take part
37. Ms. Ryan
38. Austin's state
39. Was angry
40. Margaret Atwood bestseller, The Blind __
42. "Beyond the Sea" singer Bobby, and others
43. Shabby __ (Interior design style)
44. Greek cheese
45. Tranquil
48. "__ Development"
52. Yes or No voting event in Quebec in 1980 and 1995
54. Positive
55. Apprehensive feeling
56. Crossword rendering of a bear's scratch-on-a-tree
57. Nile wader
58. __ Scale
59. Musical based on the work of T.S. Eliot
60. Wine holder

Down
1. Indigo dye source
2. Finale, in music
3. Suffix to 'Arthr'
4. Teen drama TV series
5. Football player's numbered top
6. Fennel-like flavour
7. Viva __ (Word-of-mouth)
8. Inquire
9. Obi-Wan __
10. Meddlesome [var. sp.]
11. Vitamins brand, __ _ Day
12. Las Vegas resorts mogul, Steve __
15. Tiered temple
18. Mr. Fonda's
20. S-shaped moulding
23. Alberta's Oil __
24. ABBA musical, __ Mia!
25. Ram's sign
26. Performs a tune
27. "Canadian Idol" Season 2 winner Mr. Porter
28. Ms. Campbell
29. 1979 Sigourney Weaver sci-fi movie
30. Loans
32. Britney Spears hit
35. Next to
36. "__ Park" (1993)
38. Vacation souvenir to wear
39. Destiny
41. Showbiz news show, "__ Hollywood"
42. Skin layer
44. Kiwi __
45. Stroller, in Britain
46. Letterman's rival
47. Kabul, __.
48. 1998 Sarah McLachlan hit
49. Marching band instrument
50. Greek goddess of discord
51. Office table
53. Ms. Kidman, to pals

Yesterday's Crossword



Sudoku

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.

6		9				5		
	1	3		4	9	2		
	7		2		5		1	
1	9		3				6	
			9	7	6			
	8				4		2	9
	6		4		7		5	
		5	8	1		6	9	
		8				1		2

Yesterday's Sudoku

9	8	1	6	4	7	3	5	2
4	2	3	8	1	5	6	7	9
6	7	5	9	2	3	1	8	4
8	3	6	2	5	4	9	1	7
1	5	9	3	7	8	4	2	6
2	4	7	1	9	6	8	3	5
5	6	8	4	3	2	7	9	1
3	9	2	7	6	1	5	4	8
7	1	4	5	8	9	2	6	3

Today
8°/3°
Partly cloudy
Thursday
8°/5°
Showers
40%
Know what the weather will be 14 days from now.
Check the 14 day trend.
©The Weather Network 2013

HYUNDAI

HAVE IT ALL SALES EVENT

LOWER PAYMENTS WITH 0%† + $0 DOWN PAYMENT

FINANCING FOR UP TO 84 MONTHS

ON SELECT MODELS

Limited model shown

2013 ELANTRA

HWY: 5.2L/100 KM
CITY: 7.1L/100 KM

OWN IT FOR **$96** BI-WEEKLY | WITH **0%†** FINANCING FOR **84** MONTHS | AND **$0** DOWN PAYMENT | SELLING PRICE: **$17,444♦**

ELANTRA L 6-SPEED MANUAL.
DELIVERY & DESTINATION INCLUDED.

2012 CANADIAN & NORTH AMERICAN CAR OF THE YEAR

STANDARD FEATURES INCLUDE: 148HP • iPOD®/USB/AUXILIARY INPUT JACKS • POWER WINDOWS & DOOR LOCKS • DUAL HEATED POWER EXTERIOR MIRRORS

SE with Tech. shown

2013 ELANTRA GT

HWY: 5.3L/100 KM
CITY: 7.8L/100 KM

OWN IT FOR **$107** BI-WEEKLY | WITH **0%†** FINANCING FOR **84** MONTHS | AND **$0** DOWN PAYMENT | SELLING PRICE: **$19,544♦**

ELANTRA GT GL 6-SPEED MANUAL.
DELIVERY, DESTINATION & $1,100 IN PRICE ADJUSTMENTS* INCLUDED.

2013 AJAC BEST NEW SMALL CAR (OVER $21K)

INCLUDES AIR CONDITIONING

STANDARD FEATURES INCLUDE: DRIVER SELECTABLE STEERING (DSS) • HEATED FRONT SEATS • SIRIUS XM RADIO WITH BLUETOOTH® HANDS FREE PHONE SYSTEM • COOLED GLOVE BOX

Limited model shown

2013 TUCSON

HWY: 7.7L/100 KM
CITY: 10.4L/100 KM

OWN IT FOR **$124** BI-WEEKLY | WITH **0.99%†** FINANCING FOR **84** MONTHS | AND **$0** DOWN PAYMENT | SELLING PRICE: **$21,759♦**

TUCSON L 5-SPEED MANUAL.
DELIVERY & DESTINATION INCLUDED.

INCLUDES AIR CONDITIONING

STANDARD FEATURES INCLUDE: iPOD®/USB/MP3/AUXILIARY INPUT JACKS • POWER HEATED EXTERIOR MIRRORS • EZ LANE CHANGE ASSIST

Limited model shown

2013 SANTA FE

HWY: 6.7L/100 KM
CITY: 10.1L/100 KM

OWN IT FOR **$166** BI-WEEKLY | WITH **1.99%†** FINANCING FOR **84** MONTHS | AND **$0** DOWN PAYMENT | SELLING PRICE: **$28,259♦**

SANTA FE 2.4L FWD AUTO.
DELIVERY & DESTINATION INCLUDED.

2013 AJAC BEST NEW SUV (OVER $35K)

INCLUDES AUTO & AIR

STANDARD FEATURES INCLUDE: SIRIUS XM RADIO WITH BLUETOOTH® HANDS FREE PHONE SYSTEM • VEHICLE STABILITY MANAGEMENT W/ESC & TRACTION CONTROL SYSTEM • HEATED FRONT SEATS

2013 SONATA GL

HWY: 5.6L/100 KM
CITY: 8.7L/100 KM

THE MOST FUEL-EFFICIENT FULL-SIZED CAR
NATURAL RESOURCE CANADA'S
2012 ECOENERGY VEHICLE AWARD◊

Limited model shown

GET THE HYBRID FOR NO EXTRA CHARGE

OR

OWN THE GL FOR **$146** BI-WEEKLY | WITH **0.99%†** FINANCING FOR **84** MONTHS | AND **$0** DOWN PAYMENT | SELLING PRICE: **$25,564♦**

INCLUDES AUTO & AIR

SONATA GL AUTO.
DELIVERY & DESTINATION INCLUDED.

5 YEAR WARRANTY
100,000 KM
COMPREHENSIVE LIMITED WARRANTY™

5-year/100,000 km Comprehensive Limited Warranty
5-year/100,000 km Powertrain Warranty
5-year/100,000 km Emission Warranty

HYUNDAI | NEW THINKING. NEW POSSIBILITIES.™
HyundaiCanada.com

™The Hyundai names, logos, product names, feature names, images and slogans are trademarks owned by Hyundai Auto Canada Corp. †Finance offers available O.A.C. from Hyundai Financial Services based on a new 2013 Elantra L 6-Speed Manual/Elantra GT GL 6-Speed Manual/Tucson L 5-Speed Manual/Santa Fe 2.4L FWD Auto/Sonata GL Auto with an annual finance rate of 0%/0%/0.99%/1.99%/0.99% for 84 months. Bi-weekly payments are $96/$107/$124/$166/$146. No down payment required. Cost of Borrowing is $0/$0/$772/$2,038/$907. Finance offers include Delivery and Destination of $1,495/$1,495/$1,760/$1,760/$1,565. Registration, insurance, PPSA, fees, levies, charges, license fees and all applicable taxes are excluded. Delivery and destination charge includes freight, P.D.E., dealer admin fees and a full tank of gas. Financing example: 2013 Elantra L 6-Speed Manual for $17,444 at 0% per annum equals $96 bi-weekly for 84 months for a total obligation of $17,444. Cash price is $17,444. Cost of Borrowing is $0. Example price includes Delivery and Destination of $1,495. Registration, insurance, PPSA, fees, levies, charges, license fees and all applicable taxes are excluded. Delivery and destination charge includes freight, P.D.E., dealer admin fees and a full tank of gas. ▼Fuel consumption for 2013 Elantra Sedan L 6-Speed Manual (HWY 5.2L/100KM; City 7.1L/100KM)/2013 Elantra GT GL 6-Speed Manual (HWY 5.3L/100KM; City 78L/100KM)/2013 Tucson L 5-Speed Manual (HWY 7.7L/100KM, City 10.4L/100KM)/2013 Santa Fe 2.4L FWD Auto (HWY 6.7L/100KM, City 10.1L/100KM) /2013 Sonata GL Auto (HWY 5.6L/100KM; City 8.7L/100KM) are based on Manufacturer Testing. Actual fuel efficiency may vary based on driving conditions and the addition of certain vehicle accessories. Fuel economy figures are used for comparison purposes only. ♦Price of models shown 2013 Elantra Limited/Elantra GT SE Tech 6-Speed Auto/Tucson Limited AWD/Santa Fe 2.0T Limited AWD/Sonata Limited is $24,794/$27,844/$34,109/$40,259/$30,564. Prices include Delivery and Destination charges of $1,495/$1,495/$1,760/$1,760/$1,565. Registration, insurance, PPSA, fees, levies, charges, license fees and all applicable taxes are excluded. Delivery and destination charge includes freight, P.D.E., dealer admin fees and a full tank of gas. *Price adjustments are calculated against the vehicle's starting price. Price adjustments of up to $1,100 available on 2013 Elantra GT GL 6 speed Manual. Price adjustments applied before taxes. Offer cannot be combined or used in conjunction with any other available offers. Offer is non-transferable and cannot be assigned. No vehicle trade-in required. †*♦Offers available for a limited time, and subject to change or cancellation without notice. See dealer for complete details. Dealer may sell for less. Inventory is limited, dealer order may be required. ◊Based on Natural Resource Canada's 2012 ecoEnergy award for most fuel efficient full-size car. ††Hyundai's Comprehensive Limited Warranty coverage covers most vehicle components against defects in workmanship under normal use and maintenance conditions.

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North Vancouver, 604-985-0055
D#6700

OpenRoad Hyundai
13171 Smallwood Place
Richmond, 604-606-9033
D#28516

Jim Pattison Hyundai Port Coquitlam
Unit B - 2385 Ottawa St.
Port Coquitlam, 604-552-1700
D#30242

Langley Hyundai
19459 Langley Bypass
Surrey, 604-539-8549
D#30331

Jim Pattison Hyundai Surrey
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North Surrey, 604-582-8118
D#10977

Murray Hyundai White Rock
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Surrey, 604-538-7022
D#30780

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D#7356

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D#9390

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Chilliwack, 604-702-1000
D#30337

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Vancouver, 604-292-8188
D#31042